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Memorandum for the D/CI

Subject: Air Force Request to Declassify CIA Material on Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO)

1. The following is a brief review of events pertinent to the subject matter.

2. In 1953 OSI convened a panel of scientists to consider reports on unidentified flying objects and to advise us on the potential threat to national security. This resulted in a report classified "secret."

3. In 1957 following some publicity on CIA involvement in the UFO problem, the USAF requested and obtained an unclassified version of the conclusions of the 1953 report. That version avoided mentioning CIA involvement. (See attachment A)

4. ~~Dr. H. P. Robertson, the Chairman of the 1953 panel, was reported to have appeared on the "CBS Reports" TV program on 12 May 1966 and to have referred to the CIA sponsored panel on UFO's.~~

garble already cited

5. On 12 July 1966 USAF again requested declassification of the 1953 report. (See attachment B) Prior publicity was given as justification for downgrading.

6. Inasmuch as a sanitized version of the 1953 report had been released to the Air Force in 1957, we requested clarification in a meeting with an Air Force representative on 19 July. (See attachment C) During this meeting the Air Force representative showed us a USAF copy of the 1953 CIA report. It was stamped unclassified, indicating that the classification had been changed sometime prior to 19 July.

7. A new request dated 27 July was prepared by USAF. (See

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7. A new request dated 27 July was prepared by USAF. (See attachment D)

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8. On 10 August the Air Force representative called to ask about the status of our reply. She stated that Mr. John Lear, a newsman, had published an article on UFO's in the Saturday Review. (See attachment E, paragraph 3) This was the first indication during the recent interchanges that the USAF wanted to release the complete CIA report to the public.

9. On 15 August a declassified version of the complete 1953 report was forwarded to the Air Force. (See attachment F)

10. Prior to USAF receipt of the OSI reply, the Air Force called twice on 16 August to determine the status of our response and to ask about the extent of the sanitizing.

11. They called again on 18 August to request return of the USAF copy of the CIA report which had been sent to us for sanitizing. (See attachment G)

WALTER L. MACKEY
Executive Officer

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